

ODHH Monthly Bulletin

February 2012

A message from Director Lisa Kornberg

2012 is off to a great start and ODHH is busy with several projects to improve the quality of life for Marylanders with hearing loss.

Our outreach efforts continue to expand as we receive an increased number of requests from agencies throughout the state for Sensitivity and Awareness Training to aid in their quest to offer equal access to communication and programs for deaf, deafblind, and hard of hearing citizens.

Our office is also busy with preparations for our 3rd Legislative Awareness Day taking place on February 20, Presidents Day. Registration is ongoing and available online. Your participation is vital to the success of this event, so please be sure to register soon.

Please note our Assistant Director, Julie Schafer, is out of the office on an extended medical leave until further notice. Our thoughts are with her and we look forward to her return and her energetic presence in our office once again. If you need to contact us, please email us at odhh@gov.state.md.us or call 410-767-6290.

Together, we have accomplished so much and I look forward to working with you through this exciting new year!

-Lisa

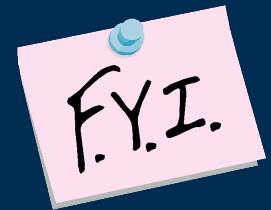
In This Issue

ODHH 3rd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Awareness Day

New Caption Telephone Choices in Maryland

Spotlight On: Highlandtown Healty Living Center (HHLC)

**ODHH 3rd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing
Legislative Awareness Day – February 20th**



Register NOW for
the 2012 Deaf and
Hard of Hearing
Legislative
Awareness Day

Monday, February 20th
(Presidents Day)
from 2pm - 10pm



On January 11, 2012, The Maryland General Assembly convened for its 430th Legislative Session. Each year, legislators meet for 90 days to act on over 2,300 bills, including the State's annual budget. The session will end on Monday, April 9, 2012. ODHH is monitoring legislation for potential impact on Marylanders with hearing loss.

Deaf, hard of hearing and deafblind Constituents can fully participate in events of the Maryland General Assembly and meetings with their elected Delegates and Senators. Accommodations for deaf, hard of hearing, and deafblind constituents are made through the Department of Legislative Services (DLS) for legislative hearings and public events of the legislature when requested.

ODHH is dedicated to increasing awareness and participation through our 3rd Annual Deaf and Hard of Hearing Legislative Awareness Day happening in Annapolis on February 20, 2012 – Presidents Day. Activities will run from 2:00pm to 10:00pm. You can register online or contact our office for more information.



The day's schedule includes time to meet with your representative and the opportunity to sit in on the House General session. Part of being an active member of the community is participating in the legislative process. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of our Legislative Awareness Day.

LAD Schedule of Events:

2:00 PM - *Advocacy Training*
4:00 PM - *Welcome and Awards Ceremony*
5:00 PM - *Meetings with Legislators (and open time for dinner)*
8:00 PM - *House General Session*

New Caption Telephone Choices in Maryland

Do you have trouble hearing on the telephone? Captioned telephones allow those who have difficulty understanding on the phone to use amplification and receive live captions of their telephone conversations, similar to captions on television. This free service uses advanced voice-recognition software to transcribe what callers say onto a large, easy-to-read screen. Don't avoid telephone conversations any longer; read below to find out more about captioned telephone options in Maryland:

CaptionCall® Telephone

For a limited time, Maryland residents can get a CaptionCall® telephone for FREE! Go to www.CaptionCall.com or call 1-877-557-2227 and refer to promo code MS1105 before June 30, 2012. This special offer **also** includes free delivery and installation assistance, along with the free captioning service (funded by the FCC), with no contracts to sign, no new bills, and no monthly charges.

Requirements to use CaptionCall:

- A high-speed internet connection
- Standard home telephone line
- Regular home electrical outlet



CapTel® Model 800i Telephone

This internet-based version, 800i, is available for \$99.00 (normal retail value of \$595.00) and includes a 90-day guarantee. Orders can be placed by contacting WCI either by phone, 1-800-233-9130 (v/tty), or online: www.weitbrecht.com. Each phone includes a 1-year limited warranty and the captioning service is always free to use.

Requirements to use Model 800i:

- A high-speed internet connection
- Standard home telephone line
- Regular home electrical outlet



CapTel® Model 800 Telephone

The 800 Model looks just like the 800i but does not require a high-speed internet connection. CapTel 800's can be purchased for \$99 after completing a Maryland Self-Purchase application. In addition, you may be qualified to receive a FREE CapTel Model 800, or other assistive telephone, from the Maryland Accessible Telecommunications (MAT) distribution program.

Requirements to use Model 800

- Standard home telephone line
- Regular home electrical outlet

Please contact Maryland Relay Customer Service for more information. Call 1-800-552-7724 (V/TTY) or email moreinfo@mdrelay.org to request a Self-Purchase or MAT Application today!

Spotlight On: Highlandtown Healthy Living Center

In May of 2010, Baltimore Medical System (BMS) opened a new location,

the Highlandtown Healthy Living Center (HHLC), at 3700 Fleet Street, Suite 200. The new building is a platinum certified green building by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED). As a green building, this center helps patients to learn about the many correlations between personal lifestyle choices, surrounding environment(s), and total health.

The Deaf Services Program, located at the HHLC, provides sign language interpretation between deaf, hard of hearing, and deaf-blind patients and the health center staff, as well as direct and individualized care coordination. The Deaf Services Program has been offering these comprehensive health services to meet the various needs of this patient population for well-over thirty years, when the company first began.

At the HHLC, Deaf Services Program staff interpreters provide sign language interpretation between patient and clinical staff in all aspects of the patient's visit to the center. American Sign Language is most often the primary language utilized during interpretation; however when appropriate, other forms of communication (signed, visual/gestural, etc) are employed to most effectively meet the linguistic, cognitive, and cultural needs of the patient.



Clinical services offered at the center include: internal medicine, pediatrics, OB/GYN, behavioral health counseling as well as psychiatry. HHLC also has on-site a Johns Hopkins Laboratory for blood draws, a BMS-owned and operated pharmacy with discounted prescription programs, and as of November 2011, American Radiology Services.

In addition to this wide range of clinical and comprehensive offerings, Deaf Services staff provides a number of care coordination services including but not limited to: health insurance advice and a sliding fee program for qualified patients, referral processing to specialty care, medication management and compliance education, one-to-one health education related to hypertension, cholesterol, diabetes, and other conditions. One of the most important and notable components of the Deaf Services Program is the provision of advocacy for/with the deaf, hard of hearing, and/or deaf-blind patient. This service focuses on the individual patient's total health care and well-being as it relates to their health literacy and to knowing their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act.

To contact the Deaf Services Program at the Highlandtown Healthy Living Center, please contact Zachary Z. Handler, Program Manager by calling 410-342-8309 (voice/relay), 443-743-3033 (videophone), or by emailing: deafservices@bmsi.org

Questions? Comments? Contact:

Julie Anne Schafer, Esq.
Assistant Director
Governor's Office of the Deaf and Hard of Hearing
217 E. Redwood Street, Suite 1300
Baltimore, MD 21202
410-767-7793 (voice)
443-453-5954 (VP)
jschafer@gov.state.md.us
<http://www.odhh.maryland.gov/>